To: LaurenCooper[Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy]
Cc: HODGE, DON[Hodge.Don@epa.gov]
From: Cabrera-Stagno, Valentina
Sent: Tue 12/3/2013 2:41:12 AM
Subject: Valentina's answers to Interview Questions

Here are the answers to the interview questions you sent my way. Happy to chat these over on Wednesday.

I'm CCing Don just so he sees what I sent along already.

Cheers,

Valentina

From: LaurenCooper1[Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy]
Sent: Friday, November 22, 2013 5:19 PM
To: Cabrera-Stagno, Valentina
Subject: Interview

Hi Valentina,

I'll give you a call at work at 4pm on Monday. The questions for the interview are a few follow-up questions from the articles I read and more about information on what the EPA does and your job. I included the interview questions below.

Have a safe trip home!

Respectfully,

Lauren Cooper

1. What is your job title?

2. What do you do on a day-to-day basis? You mentioned attending conventions, who hosts the conventions?

I mentioned that recently I had attended the California Resource Conservation District Conference in November and given a presentation on EPA's programs and overall goals and approach to water quality restoration and the State of the Estuary Conference in October and presented a poster on evaluating the progress towards implementing Total Maximum Daily Loads. These conferences are supported by the entities that attend them usually with conference fees as well as some additional support from some organizations each time. I don't go to conferences that often but these happened to be occurring nearby so there were no travel costs. They just happened to stack up recently such that I had spent a fair amount of time recently preparing materials.

3. What do you feel has been your specific chapter's greatest accomplishment in terms of projects that you have sponsored?

I assume by chapter you mean Region? EPA has 10 Regions. Region 9 is the San Francisco office that covers CA, AZ, NV and HI as well as Guam, American Samoa and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The office I work in here (the Watersheds Office) oversees the Nonpoint source program (which implements section 319 of the clean water act and is often called the 319 program) and they actually have been collecting success stories and posting them in short readable format on the web. So here is a link to the nationwide compilation but if you click on California you can then pick one of the local watersheds that has been restoring at least in part with nonpoint source program funds.

http://water.epa.gov/polwaste/nps/success319/

4. When did the EPA really begin to see the adverse affects of climate change on agriculture and clean water sources?

I'm not sure I can answer this question. EPA hasn't been studying this particular impact in a focused way. It is clear from the climate model predictions that agriculture and water sources will be affected. Rain patterns are already changing and pest pressures are also a concern, however, the nature of climate change and the variability in natural systems means that it's hard to pin down a date.

5. How exactly has climate changed affected cleanliness of water?

The most dramatic impacts of climate change in California will likely be in the changing of timing of water delivery to the area. For example, instead of snow which is held in the mountains as ice until it melts in the spring, rain will fall and pass through the system earlier. This impacts the aquatic communities that live in rivers and estuary since they have adapted over time to the regime that has existed rather than the new patterns. In terms of pollutants climate change may impact fire regime which can contaminate waters. I don't know of any sources that will give you an answer on how exactly climate change has affected contamination of waters at this time.

6. How effective has soil sequestration been thus far?

I believe this question is about the carbon project in Marin. That is a pilot project where they are trying to quantify the sequestration in a way that can then be used to market the credits and generate funds to implement it on the wider scale. I would say it is still in it's initial exploratory stages.

http://www.marincarbonproject.org/

7. What is being done about nonpoint sources of water pollution? (Nonpoint sources being everyday activities such as fertilization, pesticides, etc.)

EPA has a non point source program the Clean Water Act Section 319 program that addresses non point sources of pollution. In California the state version of the Clean Water Act (Porter Cologne) allows for the regulation of nonpoint sources in a way that the Clean Water Act does not. Here is a link to the State's NPS program.

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/nps/protecting.shtml

In the realm of agriculture they are regulating discharges from fields in a way that is unique in the nation.

8. The sea levels rising could result in increased saltwater intrusion in Sacramento Delta and well water coastal plains. The sea levels rising is inevitable, its only a matter of time. What can be done to prepare and prevent the intrusion?

Right now the delta has most of the fresh water that would flow down it diverted for human uses. The intrusion that has resulted thus far is often a result of the reduction in freshwater flows down the system. Pushing more freshwater down the system can reduce the intrusion. Excessive pumping of groundwater can also exacerbate intrusion.

9. What are the names of corporations or organizations that the EPA has sponsored?

EPA does not sponsor corporations or organizations. I believe you mean to ask who do we give funding to?

Much of the funding we receive goes to the States and is then passed along by them to others as grants. The entities that apply for the funds vary by program. In the nonpoint source program often the recipients are non profits, watershed organizations, resource conservation districts, etc. The types of projects are watershed restoration or planning for restoration.

10. Groundwater storage appears to be a particular long term goal for water sustainability, what types of projects, if any, are being sponsored to increase both surface and groundwater storage?

EPA gets involved when it comes to reviewing the environmental impact statements for water storage projects but doesn't tend to create or promote them. There are often environmental impacts associated with water storage projects that have to be mitigated. Using groundwater when surface water is scarce is a concept call conjunctive use and is something we recommend. There was recently a development of a Kern water bank in Kern county that stores groundwater.